

THE INDUSTRIAL HEMP CAMPAIGN:  
Job creation through environmental action


if  
you  
think

HEMP

is a  
drug

SMOKE  
THIS  
BOOK

CAW-TCA  
CANADA



"Industrial hemp is a viable alternative that can provide both environmentally benign products that are sorely lacking in our society and jobs for today and our future."

Basil "Buzz" Hargrove  
*CAW National President*

"The campaign for the legalization of industrial hemp is an excellent example of CAW environmental activism by the rank-and-file."

Jim O'Neil  
*CAW Secretary-Treasurer*

"The Green Party of Ontario would like to endorse the CAW's campaign to establish the hemp industry in Canada and congratulate you on the initiative. Keep up the good work."

Frank deJong  
*Leader of the Green Party of Ontario*

"I support your work to legalize industrial hemp."

David Suzuki  
*The David Suzuki Foundation*

"This crop has the real potential to create a large number of jobs throughout Canada and to restore the historic vitality of the family farm."

Helen O'Keefe  
*Chairperson, Political Action Committee  
Public Service Alliance of Canada*

"Hemp has the potential to provide economic and environmental benefits to Canada. I congratulate you on the work you have done in support of its use."

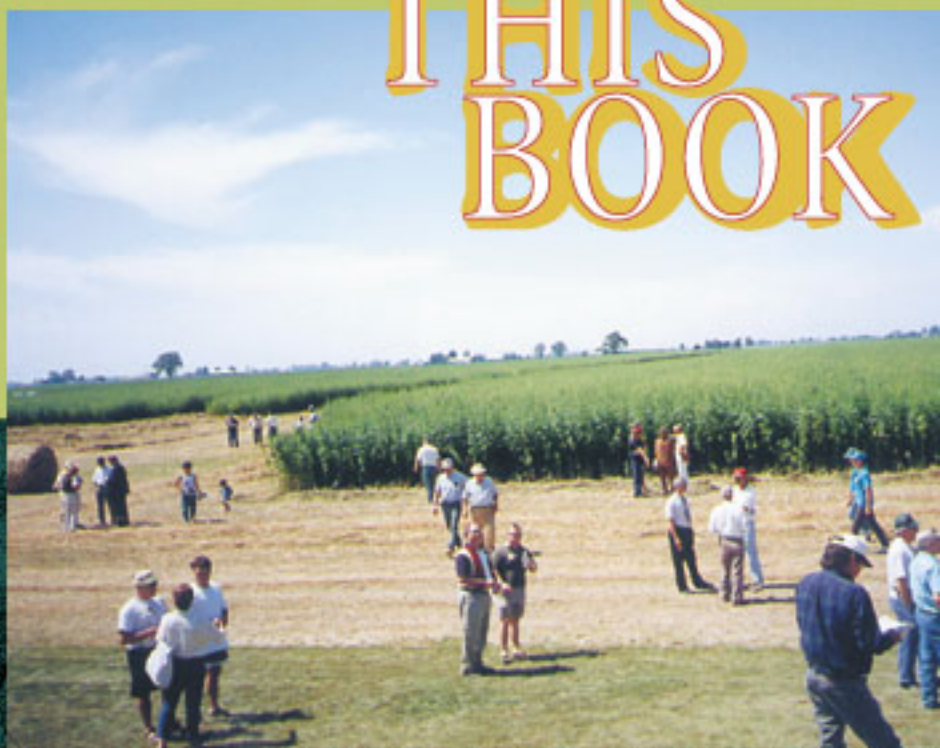
John Finlay  
*Member of Parliament, Oxford-Woodstock, Ontario*

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CAW-TCA

the *introduction*  
CAW

industrial

HMP

campaign



Canadian Hemp pioneer  
Howard Fraleigh (left),  
circa 1930s.

Photo: *Hemp Horizons*, Chelsea  
Green Publishing Company.

## This booklet celebrates

the success of  
the CAW's Industrial Hemp Campaign.

It highlights the activities associated with this campaign, and in doing so aims to show CAW members, that through organization and perseverance we can have a positive effect on the quality of life in our country. CAW members involved in the Industrial Hemp Campaign not only helped to rejuvenate an environmentally sustainable industry, but also created a potential new source of employment for Canada's workforce. We can learn a lot about successful activism from the Industrial Hemp Campaign. It is hoped that by celebrating our achievements and educating our members about "what worked", we can inspire continued activism and strengthen our ability to create change in the future.



Although hemp is a cannabis plant, it is not the same as marijuana, and *Hemp cannot be used as a drug*. The chemical which gives marijuana its psychoactive qualities is called THC or delta - 9 tetrahydrocannabinol. Hemp plants can not be used as a drug because they contain only trace concentrations of this chemical.

## HEMP

(\*THC content 0-1%)

Members of the RCMP have agreed that growing commercial hemp will not complicate efforts to eradicate the drug variety of cannabis. Marijuana requires different growing conditions than hemp.

## MARIJUANA

(\*THC content 10-15%)

Primarily it needs a lot more space. In addition, a hemp field is the last place anyone trying to produce marijuana would want to put their plants. The hemp plants would cross pollinate with the marijuana plants making them ineffective for drug use the same as hemp plants.

**Industrial hemp** is one of the most versatile crops known. It can be used to produce high quality products ranging from paper to petroleum and from textiles to food. The hemp plant's strong fibres, fast rate of growth, and resistance to pests are just a few of the characteristics that make it such an extraordinary crop.

Due to its versatility, industrial hemp was at one time an extremely important global commodity. Then in the 1930s it fell victim to anti-drug sentiment. Cultivation bans on cannabis plants were enacted and enforced in the United States, Canada and other countries. Since hemp is a cannabis plant its cultivation became illegal despite the fact that it has never been and could never be used as a drug.

While hemp farming was banned in some countries, it remained legal in others. China, Hungary, Romania, Poland and France have continued to produce hemp throughout the Twentieth Century and Canadians have continued to import hemp based products from these areas. Ironically, the Canadian government itself imports hemp paper upon which to print our national currency because it is more durable than paper produced with wood pulp.

In the early 1990s, French scientists developed a new strain of hemp which had even lower concentrations of THC than the hemp that had been grown in the past. Countries which had restricted the growth of this plant began to reconsider their laws. Great Britain lifted its prohibition in 1993 and many other European countries followed suit. In 1995 CAW environmentalists, recognizing the many benefits of the hemp plant, set out on a mission to educate Canadians about the possibilities of hemp farming in Canada. In the years which followed, the CAW Industrial Hemp Campaign was an instrumental factor in the re-legalization of hemp cultivation in our country.

# The History of

# Industrial HEMP

